



# CATAWBA COUNTY

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**Department of Social Services**

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Children's Advocacy Center of Catawba County Receives Support from Local Businesses**

**Lowes Foods** of Catawba County *Joined Hands* with the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Catawba County to raise awareness of child abuse and raise funds for the CAC. During the month of April all five Lowes Foods stores in Catawba County asked shoppers to contribute \$1 for a "child's hand." *Joining Hands* raised over \$2,300 for the CAC and made thousands of shoppers aware of the important mission of the Children's Advocacy Center of Catawba County. "The Children's Advocacy Center provides a valuable service in our community," said Dianne Blancato, spokeswoman for Lowes Foods. "Our stores are proud to support the Center in its efforts to help heal victims of child abuse."

**Lee Industries** recently held their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Chic Robinson Charity Invitational in support of the Charles D. Robinson Campership Fund. The fund was established in 2004 to honor Chic Robinson for his dedication to the scouting program. Funds from the golf tournament provide deserving scouts the opportunity for a camping experience at Camp Bud Shiele. This year proceeds from the tournament were extended to include the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Catawba County. The tournament raised \$7,500 for the CAC. "It is such a pleasure to continue Chic's legacy by giving back to the community, and the CAC is such a deserving organization. It was fitting to include them in this year's tournament," said Angi Doane, one of the tournament organizers and employees of Lee Industries.

Children's Advocacy Centers were established to mobilize an effective collaborative community response to child abuse. To accomplish our mission here in Catawba County, we partner with the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department, the Hickory, Newton, Conover, Longview, and Maiden Police Departments, Child Protective Services, and medical and mental health providers. The CAC offers a child friendly atmosphere where child victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse and their families can access a continuum of services offered by these partner agencies. Our combined services help facilitate healing for the victims and prosecution of the offender. Deborah Johnson, Director of the CAC, expressed her sincere appreciation, "We appreciate Lowes Foods and Lee Industries' commitment to abused and neglected children in Catawba County. The CAC is a tremendous team effort, and we are grateful to have both of these outstanding community leaders on our team."

**For more information, please contact Deborah Johnson, Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Catawba County, at (828) 465-9296.**